already been released and the balance amount would be released in October, 1988 subject to fulfilment of the prescribed conditions.

Under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP), State Government spent Rs. 75.72 crores during the first three years of Seventh Plan. A provision of Rs. 29.5 crores has been made under MNP in 1988-89. Thus, adequate funds are available for execution of schemes for supply of safe drinking water in problem villages included in the Action Plan for 1988-89 in the State.

Collaboration with Pepsi Cola

*50. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for collaboration of the Pepsi Cola with Punjab Agro and Voltas Limited, the co-promoters has been cleared by the Project Approval Board;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken thereon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The Project Approval Board (PAB) has considered the proposal and it is under the consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Relief to Fertilizer Industry

*51. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give relief to fertilizer industry for meeting higher inventory carrying costs and to allow discount to the consumers; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present under consideration of Government to give relief to the fertiliser industry for meeting higher inventory carrying costs.

In pursuance of the announcement made by Government in the Budget for 1988-89, asking fertiliser companies to offer discount of 7-1/2 per cent on the maximum consumer price of urea, the Government issued orders in April, 1988 to compensate the indigenous manufacturers for the discounts on actual sales of urea subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. These discounts are effective from 1-4-1988.

Flood due to breach in embankment of Patiala Nadi

*52. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a recent flash flood caused by a wide breach in the embankment of Patiala Nadi nearly one third of Patiala city was submerged in flood waters and some persons have been killed and thousands rendered homeless as a consequence thereof; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the estimated loss of life and property as a result thereof, the outcome of the inquiry, if any, conducted into the circumstances under which wide breach in the embankment of the Nadi took place and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b) According to information received from the State Government of Punjab, heavy rains of about 200 mm within a period of ten hours on 3rd and 4th

July, 1988 caused breaches in the embankment of Patiala Nadi at several points. The extent of reported damage is as under:—

(i)	Population affected . .	50,000
(ii)	No. of human lives lost . .	7
(iii)	No. of cattle heads lost .	25
(iv)	No. of houses damaged .	3,120
(v)	Cropped area affected .	24,864 ha. (paddy)
(vi)	Estimated damage to Public utilities . . .	Rs. 500 lakhs

2. The State Government had taken following relief measures in Patiala:—

(i)	No. of people evacuated .	2,500
(ii)	No. of lives saved from drowning	72
(iii)	No. of civil and army boats employed . . .	10
(iv)	Amount released for relief measures	Rs. 35 lakhs in addition to Rs. 10 lakhs received from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

(v) So far 1827 families have been given relief and Rs. 25 97 lakhs disbursed by way of exgratia relief and for repair of houses. Disbursement of relief to other affected families is also expected to be completed during this week.

(vi) The work of plugging the breaches in the Patiala Nadi has been completed.

3. The Secretary, Irrigation and Power Department has been asked by the State Government to make an inquiry into the circumstances with regard to the breaches in the embankment. Tne findings of the inquiry is not yet available.

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Shortage of pig iron

*53. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whethre it is a fact that there is a big shortage of pig iron in the country and thousands of small and medium undertakings are starved of this raw material and industrial units are under-utilised if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the requirement of the pig iron in the country and its local supply and extent of short fall;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to import pig iron through MMTC, if so, what is the quantity contemplated and at what cost; and

(d) whether the import of pig iron is going to be channelised only through Government agencies of the actual users would be permitted to import the same through their established and registered associations?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) Government has received representations from some consumers, Associations and State Governments regarding the shortage of pig iron.

(b) The demand for pig iron for 1988-89 has been assessed at about 1.67 million tonnes as against the likely production of 1.35 million tonnes.

(c) Yes, Sir. 2,75,000 tonnes at an estimated cost of about Rs. 54 crores.

(d) Import of pig iron is canalised through MMTC—a Government agency. Direct import of pig iron is allowed even at present under REP and Advance licensing provisions.

Import of rice and wheat

*54. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister